



**SILVER OAK
UNIVERSITY**
EDUCATION TO INNOVATION

**Policy
for
Seed Money Scheme
(SMS)**





INTRODUCTION

Research and Development is a systematic process involving basic and applied research to discover solutions for societal problems or to create novel knowledge and products. Outcomes may include patents, research publications, international database submissions, copyrights, etc.

The Seed Money Scheme (SMS) has been initiated by the University to provide minor research grants in various areas to motivate faculty members and enhance their research interests. These efforts may ultimately lead to major research proposals submitted to national or international funding agencies.

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- Faculty members of Silver Oak University are encouraged to submit minor research proposals based on innovative ideas.
- The applicant must clearly demonstrate that the proposed project represents a new research direction, potentially leading to external funding.
- The Seed Money Scheme allows grants of up to ₹5 lakhs, subject to special permission from the Evaluation Committee. The amount does not vary by discipline and must be disbursed within one year of sanction.
- The project duration is a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 2 years, depending on the nature of the project.
- A final report must be submitted to the SOU-RDC Cell upon completion of the project.
- The PI must ensure timely completion of the project and submission of all required documentation. If the desired outcome is not achieved within the stipulated time, any extension will be subject to the Evaluation Committee's approval.
- The primary goal of the scheme is to support faculty members in developing research resources in their area of expertise and to foster innovative or interdisciplinary approaches. Outcomes may include preliminary data, technological or software developments, prototypes, patents, copyrights, or publications.

GUIDELINES FOR SEED MONEY SCHEME FOR MINOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

Objective

- To encourage and support research activities among faculty across various departments.
- To promote interdisciplinary research and inter-faculty collaboration.
- To support innovative ideas and obtain preliminary results for external grant applications.
- To encourage the development of intellectual property and new processes/products.

Grant Amount

- Research grants under this scheme are normally up to ₹5 lakhs, with higher amounts requiring special approval from the Evaluation Committee.





Eligibility

- All faculty members of Silver Oak University are eligible.
- A faculty member can serve as a PI on one project at a time and as a Co-PI on one other project simultaneously.

Content of the Proposal

- As per the format prescribed by SOU-RDC Cell.

Process

- Projects will be sanctioned solely for creating specialized research resources.
- Proposals will be reviewed, approved, and monitored by the Evaluation Committee under the Chairmanship of the Dean (Research).

PROJECT GUIDELINES

- Only one project per PI is allowed at a time.
- The duration of each project is a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 2 years.
- Manpower expenses are not allowed. Other expenses such as equipment, software, books, consumables, TA/DA, registration fees, etc., are permitted.
- Final report submission is mandatory. There is no requirement for interim/half-yearly reporting, but the Evaluation Committee may review progress.
- The Evaluation Committee will monitor project outcomes through scheduled reviews.
- There is no separate audit; the HoD and HoI are responsible for verifying the Utilization Certificate (UC).
- Funds are released based on requirement; unutilized funds must be returned if the project is terminated or mismanaged.
- In case the PI resigns or disassociates from the University, the Co-PI becomes the new PI. If both PI and Co-PI exit, the project is closed with the permission of the Dean (Research).
- All items purchased under the scheme shall remain with the department for future academic and research use.
- Assistance from the IPR Cell is available to support patent, copyright, or dissemination activities.
- While publication is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged. Seed money projects may lead to externally funded research proposals.
- The University reserves the right to amend or modify these guidelines at any time.

